

Brown University

EGYPTOLOGY
& ANCIENT WESTERN ASIAN STUDIES



New Course Semester II

AWAS1100



***Imagining the Gods:
Myths and Myth-making in
Ancient Mesopotamia***

Creation, the Flood, the Tower of Babel—well-known myths as these have their origins in ancient Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Using both ancient texts in translation and archaeology, this course will explore categories of Mesopotamian culture labeled ‘myth’ and ‘religion’ (roughly 3300-300 BCE), critically examining the ancient evidence as well as various modern interpretations. Topics will include myths of creation and the flood, prophecy and divination, death and the afterlife, ritual, kingship, combat myths and apocalypses, the nature and expression of ancient religious experience, and the representations of the divine. There are no prerequisites.

Matthew Rutz

Q Hour / Thursdays 4-6:20